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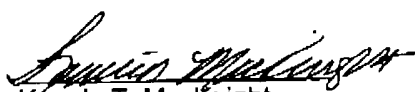
REMARKS

The present application was originally filed with 13 Claims. In a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment mailed September 21, 2001, Claims 1-6 and 11-13 were cancelled without prejudice and Claims 14-27 were added. Thus, Claims 7-10 and 14-27 were pending. In response to the present Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has restricted the Claims into three Groups, with Claims 7-10 and 14-15 in Group I, Claims 7-8 and 14-15 in Group II, and Claims 16-27 in Group III. Applicants hereby elect the Claims in Group I with traverse, and have cancelled Claims 16-27. Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims in Groups I and II should be rejoined. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the Claims are not drawn to lowered or increased immunogenic responses. The Claims recite that the immunogenic response is a **different** immunogenic response, which could be either an increased or a decreased response. As the Claims do not require any additional or different searches, Applicants submit that there is no increased burden in examining these Claims which recite a different immunogenic response.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled Claims in a Divisional application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I

MARKED-UP VERSION REWRITTEN, ADDED, AND/OR CANCELLED CLAIMS

The following is a marked-up version of the Claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(1)(ii) with instructions and markings showing changes made herein to the previous version of record of the Claims. Underlining denotes added text while bracketing denotes deleted text.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 16-27.

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APPENDIX II**CLEAN VERSION OF THE ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS AS
AMENDED IN THIS COMMUNICATION**

The following is a list of the Claims as they would appear following entry of this amendment.

7. (Once amended) A variant of a polypeptide of interest comprising a T-cell epitope, wherein said variant differs from said polypeptide of interest by having an altered T-cell epitope such that said variant and said polypeptide produce a different immunogenic response in a individual, wherein said T-cell epitope is altered by having at least one amino acid substitution.

8. (Once amended) A variant of a polypeptide of interest comprising a T-cell epitope, wherein said variant differs from said polypeptide of interest by having an altered T-cell epitope such that said variant and said polypeptide produce a different immunogenic response in a individual, wherein said T-cell epitope is altered by having a terminal portion of said polypeptide of interest comprising said T-cell replaced with a corresponding terminal portion of a homolog of said polypeptide of interest wherein said homolog does not comprise a T-cell epitope identical to said replaced epitope.

9. The variant of claim 8 wherein said variant comprises at least one less T-cell epitope than said polypeptide of interest and said homolog combined.

10. The variant of claim 8 wherein said variant comprises at least two less T-cell epitopes than said polypeptide of interest and said homolog combined.

14. The variant of claim 8, wherein the polypeptide of interest and the homolog of said polypeptide are proteases.

15. The variant of claim 14, wherein said protease is a subtilisin.